Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00628 240517Z ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 JUSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 FTC-01 /072 W

-----240525Z 016585 /12

R 231145Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY DOHA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2625

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, QA

SUBJECT: FURTHER LOOSENING OF BOYCOTT REGULATIONS IN QATAR

REF: (A) DOHA 456; (B) STATE 85087; (C) STATE 110539

1. THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF REASONS FOR WHICH A SHIP COULD BE BANNED FROM ENTERING ARAB OR ANY OTHER PORTS. AS IN US, PORT REGULATIONS ROUTINELY BAN SHIPS AMONG OTHER REASONS DUE TO AGE OF VESSEL, PORT SAFETY INFRACTIONS, IMPROPER REGISTRY, TYPE OF CARGO, FINAL DESTINATION OF CARGO, OR EARLIER PORTS OF CALL. SHIPS AFFECTED BY THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL ARE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF THOSE SHIPS BANNED FROM ARAB PORTS BUT LIST IS NOT COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF SHIPS BLACKLISTED BY ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE. FOR THIS REASON EMBASSY MAINTAINS THAT SECTION TWO OF LETTER TO BANKS QUOTED IN DOHA REFTEL DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY REFERENCE TO BOYCOTT.

2. EARLIER EMISSIONS AND PUBLICATIONS BY THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE OF THE GOQ MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE INCLUDED LANGUAGE SPCIFICALLY REFERRING TO BOYCOTT: (QUOTE) VESSELS ARE NOT LISTED ON THE BLACKLIST OF THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE (UNQUOTE). ACCORDING TO MINISTRY SOURCE THIS LANGUAGE HAS BEEN DELETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFICALLY TO COMPLY WITH US REGULATIONS AND TO ALLOW TRADE BETWEEN US AND QATAR TO PROCEED WITH A MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION. GOQ SOURCE STATED THAT PRESENT WORDING, (QUOTE) VESSEL IS NOT BANNED IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES (UNQUOTE), WAS ADOPTED TO FREE US COMPANIES FROM ANY APPEARANCE OF COMPLYING WITH OR AIDING IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BOYCOTT.

3. IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT ANY SECTION OF ANY LETTER ISSUED BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE IMPLICITLY REFERS TO THE BOYCOTT. HOWEVER, IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES THIS ARGUMENT WE WILL BE FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF CONDEMNING THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE WORKING.

4. ABOVE REPLY TO STATE 085087 DRAFTED APRIL 18 BUT INADVERTENTLY MISLAID AND NOT TRANSMITTED. PAGANELLI

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